

10 Southwell Gardens London SW  
5 Nov

My dear Mr Watson - I have received your interesting letter of 26 Oct and must send a few lines of reply by return of post. I thought that I had sent (as I certainly intended to send) a post-card thanking you for your kindness in regard to Dr Gray's Japanese Fl. papers - I shall get the missing pages copied for me at-  
his.

I think that you will see by my last letter that I am <sup>in</sup> complete agreement with you ~~too~~ as to the nomenclature controversies - and as Hooker takes quite the same view of the subject you are not likely to find much to object to in the Index Kewensis. Of course in a work of such gigantic proportions there must be some slips but the rule is to adhere to well established names even though recent investigation

may show that they are not entitled  
to actual priority - This would occur  
such cases as that of *Castalia*  
But the difficulty will arise in  
cases where a name in general  
use 10 - 20 - or 30 years ago has  
been changed to an older name  
in modern works of authority  
In these cases the older name will  
generally be preferred - understanding  
by the older name the binomial  
designation of a plant - i.e. that of  
the genus & species & not the specific  
name alone -

You will have seen the papers  
by Messrs Britton & Greene - I think  
the whole controversy comparatively  
of little importance - The important  
object is to secure - as far as possible  
an uniform system & the minority  
must yield in this as in other  
matters.

The only point in your letter

as to which I cannot agree is  
in writing Gray instead of either  
A. Gr. or A. Gray - The former  
is exactly parallel to R. Br. usually  
adopted for Robert Brown - Botany  
is not essentially an old world or  
a new world science - and I think  
that we must seek to make our  
rules as far as possible adapted to  
the whole world present & future

I write in haste but do not  
like to leave your interesting  
letter unanswered

Very sincerely yours

John Ball